

## Message Text

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44

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SS-15

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV;MLEVITSKY:REH

APPROVED BY EUR:SOV:RBARRY

D/HA - LARTHUR

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R 220044Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SREF, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET SEAMAN JUMPS SHIP AND ASKS FOR ASYLUM

1. SOVIET SEAMAN VIKTOR YAKOVLEVITCH KOVSH, RESIDENT OF LENINGRAD, LEFT SOVIET SHIP BELGOROD DOCKED IN BALTIMORE MORNING OF APRIL 21 AND PRESENTED HIMSELF TO INS TO ASK FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. KOVSH, WHO HAS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN IN LENINGRAD, SAID HE JUMPED SHIP BECAUSE HE WANTED A BETTER LIFE.

2. LATER IN THE DAY IN PRESENCE OF INS REP AND EUR/SOV OFFICER, KOVSH SPOKE TO SHIP'S CAPTAIN AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO SOVEMBASSY CONSUL ZHUK. HE REAFFIRMED TO SOVIETS THAT HIS DECISION NOT TO RETURN TO SHIP WAS FIRM AND THAT HE WOULD NOT CHANGE HIS MIND. HIS ONLY REQUEST TO SOVIETS WAS THAT HIS PERSONAL EFFECTS ABOARD SHIP BE TRANSFERRED TO HIS FAMILY. INTERVIEW WAS NOT ACRIMONIOUS ALTHOUGH SOVIETS MENTIONED WIFE AND CHILDREN SEVERAL TIMES AND STRESSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THEY WOULD GUARANTEE NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN TO KOVSH IF

HE CHOSE TO RETURN.

3. KOVSH WILL REMAIN IN BALTIMORE OVERNIGHT AND THEN TRAVEL  
TO NEW YORK WHERE HE WILL BE PUT IN TOUCH WITH TOLSTOY  
FOUNDATION. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL ASYLUM, DEFECTION, MERCHANT SEAMEN  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE097256  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** REH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760153-0199  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760433/aaaabbtn.tel  
**Line Count:** 66  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET SEAMAN JUMPS SHIP AND ASKS FOR ASYLUM  
**TAGS:** SREF, UR, US, (KOVSH, VIKTOR YAKOVLEVITCH)  
**To:** MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
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